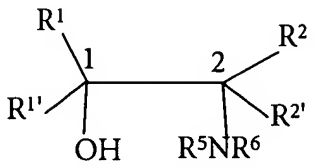
Claims:

1. A process for preparing a 2-aminoalcohol of formula



III

wherein R^1, $R^{1'}$, R^2 and $R^{2'}$, independently from each other, are H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-lower alkyl, cycloalkyl-lower alkenyl, cycloalkyl-lower alkynyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyl-lower alkyl, heterocyclyl-lower alkenyl, heterocyclyl-lower alkynyl, aryl, aryl-lower alkyl, aryl-lower alkenyl, or aryl-lower alkynyl, or

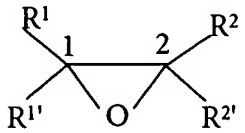
R^1 and R^2, R^1 and $R^{2'}$, $R^{1'}$ and R^2 or $R^{1'}$ and $R^{2'}$ taken together with the two carbon atoms to which they are bound, are a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system, or

R^1 and $R^{1'}$ or R^2 and $R^{2'}$ taken together with the carbon atom to which they are bound, are a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system,

wherein at least one of R^1, $R^{1'}$, R^2 and $R^{2'}$ is not H, and

R^5 and R^6, independently of each other, are H or a substituent of an amino group, wherein R^5 and R^6 are not both H,

comprising treating a 1,2-epoxide of formula (II)



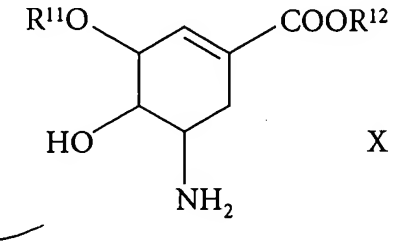
II

wherein R^1, $R^{1'}$, R^2 and $R^{2'}$ are as above

with an amine of formula R^5NHR^6 wherein R^5 and R^6 are as above in the presence of a magnesium halide catalyst.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein the amine of formula R^5NHR^6 is allylamine, diallylamine, benzylamine, dibenzylamine or trimethylsilyl amine and the magnesium halide catalyst is magnesium bromide diethyl etherate.

3. A compound of the formula



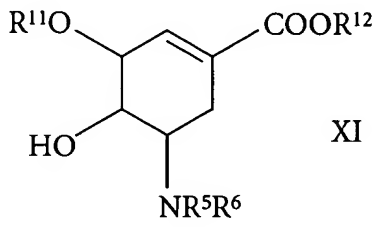
X

wherein R^{11} is an alkyl group or substituted alkyl group and R^{12} is an alkyl group,

and pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts thereof.

4. The compound of claim 3 wherein the compound is (3R,4S,5R)-5-amino-3-(1-ethyl-propoxy)-4-hydroxy-cyclohex-1-ene carboxylic acid ethylester.

5. A compound of the formula



XI

wherein R^{11} is an alkyl group or substituted alkyl group and R^{12} is an alkyl group, R^5 and R^6, are, independently, H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl or aryl,

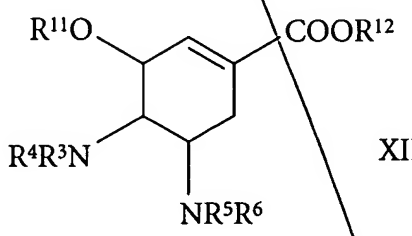
wherein R^5 and R^6 are not both H

and pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts thereof.

6. The compound of claim 5, wherein the compound is (3R,4S,5R)-5-allylamino-3-(1-ethylpropoxy)-4-hydroxy-cyclohex-1-ene carboxylic acid ethylester

7. The compound of claim 5, wherein the compound is (3R,4R,5R)-5-formylamino-3-(1-ethylpropoxy)-4-hydroxy-cyclohex-1-en carboxylic acid ethylester

8. A compound of the formula



XII

wherein R^{11} is an alkyl group, substituted alkyl group and R^{12} is an alkyl group,

R^5 and R^6, are, independently, H or a substituent of an amino group wherein R^5 and R^6 are not both H, and

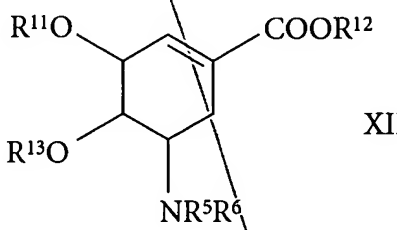
R^3 and R^4 are, independently, H or a substituent of an amino group, wherein R^3 and R^4 are not both H,

and pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts thereof.

9. The compound of claim 8, wherein the compound is (3R,4R,5S)-4-acetylamino-5-allylamino-3-(1-ethyl propoxy)-cyclohex-1-ene carboxylic acid ethylester.

10. The compound of claim 8, wherein the compound is (3R,4R,5S)-4-amino-5-allylamino-3-(1-ethylpropoxy)-cyclohex-1-ene carboxylic acid ethylester.

11. A compound of the formula



XIII

wherein

R^5 and R^6 are, independently, H or a substituent of an amino group wherein R^5 and R^6 are not both H, and

R^{11} is an alkyl group or substituted alkyl group, R^{12} is an alkyl group, and

R^{13} is a sulfonyl group,

and pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts thereof.

12. The compound of claim 11, wherein the compound is (3R,4R,5R)-5 formylamino-4-methanesulfonyl-3-(1-ethylpropoxy)-cyclohex-1-ene carboxylic acid ethylester.

13. The compound of claim 11, wherein the compound is (3R,4R,5R)-5-amino-4-methanesulfonyl-3-(1-ethylpropoxy)-cyclohex-1-ene carboxylic acid ethylester methansulfonate (1:1).